



**Women's Voices. Women Vote.**

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## **Fast Facts: Unmarried Women**

**Unmarried women are 25 percent of the eligible voting population, or 50.9 million people.**

**Unmarried women fail to turn out at rates proportionate to their one in four share of the population. Their voices are under-represented in our democracy.**

### **Representation in Population vs. Representation in Electorate:**

	<b>% Population</b>	<b>% Electorate</b>	<i>Net (% Elec.-%Pop.)</i>
<b>Married Women</b>	27	30	+3
<b>Unmarried Women</b>	25	23	-2

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*

**Unmarried women do not turn out to vote and do not register to vote at rates comparable to all other voters. Even when registered, unmarried women do not vote at rates as high as married women.**

### **Participation Summary Table:**

	<b>Total Population (%18 and over)</b>	<b>Unmarried Women (%18 and over)</b>	<b>Married Women (%18 and over)</b>
<b>Voted</b>	64	60	71
<b>Registered, did not vote</b>	7	9	6
<b>Not Registered</b>	29	31	23

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*



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**Women in the Electorate, 2008:**

	<b>Women Population (18 and over)</b>	<b>Unmarried Women (%18 and over)</b>	<b>Married Women (%18 and over)</b>
<b>Voted</b>	70,414,515	43%	57%
<b>Registered, did not vote</b>	7,654,784	58%	42%
<b>Not Registered</b>	29,185,581	55%	45%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*

**This trend continues throughout other major demographic characteristics.**

**2008 Vote by Demographic Subgroups:**

	<b>%Voted</b>	<b>%Registered, did not vote</b>	<b>%Not Registered</b>
<b>White unmarried women</b>	59	10	32
<b>White married women</b>	72	6	22
<b>African American unmarried women</b>	67	5	28
<b>African American married women</b>	71	3	26
<b>Hispanic unmarried women</b>	48	12	40
<b>Hispanic married women</b>	56	8	36

*Source: 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*

**2008 Turnout by Age:**

**Older women are women 50 years of age and older.**

**Younger women are women 18-49 years of age.**

	<b>%Voted</b>	<b>%Registered, did not vote</b>	<b>%Not Registered</b>
<b>Older unmarried women</b>	65	8	27
<b>Older married women</b>	75	5	20
<b>Younger unmarried women</b>	56	9	35
<b>Younger married women</b>	67	6	26

*Source: 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*



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**2008 Turnout by Kids:**

	<b>%Voted</b>	<b>%Registered, did not vote</b>	<b>%Not Registered</b>
<b>Unmarried women with kids</b>	56	11	34
<b>Married women with kids</b>	69	6	25
<b>Unmarried women without kids</b>	61	8	31
<b>Married women without kids</b>	72	5	23

*Source: 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement*

**Unmarried women voters see significant drop-off during midterm elections, where, in the past, only as many as 40% of unmarried women turn out to vote.**

**Unmarried Women Turnout Over Time is increasing (shaded rows are Midterm Elections):**

	<b><i>Voter Turnout</i></b>
<b>2008</b>	60%
<b>2006</b>	40%
<b>2004</b>	59%
<b>2002</b>	38%
<b>2000</b>	52%
<b>1998</b>	37%
<b>1996</b>	52%

*Source: Current Population Surveys 1996-2008, November supplements*

**Unmarried Women are susceptible to drop-off during mid-term:**

*Percentage of voters lost from the previous presidential election*

	<b><i>Drop-off rate</i></b>
<b>2006</b>	31.6%
<b>2002</b>	27.5%
<b>1998</b>	28.3%

*Source: Current Population Surveys 1996-2006, November supplements*



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**A Demographic Summary Table:**

	<b>Total Population (%18 and over)</b>	<b>Unmarried Women (%18 and over)</b>	<b>Married women (%18 and over)</b>
<b><i>AGE</i></b>			
18 – 29	21	32	10
30 – 45	28	20	33
46 – 65	35	26	42
Over 65	16	21	15
<b><i>EDUCATION</i></b>			
Less than H.S.	10	13	7
H.S. Graduate	32	31	31
Some College / Tech	30	34	29
College Graduate	18	15	22
Post Graduate	9	6	11
<b><i>RACE</i></b>			
White	73	65	78
African American	12	19	8
Hispanic	9	10	8
Other	6	6	6
<b><i>EMPLOYMENT</i></b>			
Employed	63	56	61
Unemployed	4	4	3
Retired	17	20	18
Disabled	5	8	3
Other/Not Working	10	13	15
<b><i>MOBILITY</i></b>			
Less than 12 months	14	18	10
1-2 years	6	7	6
3-4 years	18	23	19
5 years or longer	49	51	65

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Current Population Survey, November supplement;  
Mobility number based on 2008 American Community Survey*